



*The State's Commission for National and Community Service*

## Annual Report 2018



Faith Johnson, a High Rocks participant from Pocahontas County. Her two favorite AmeriCorps members are Claudia Rivera and Liz Kammeyer.







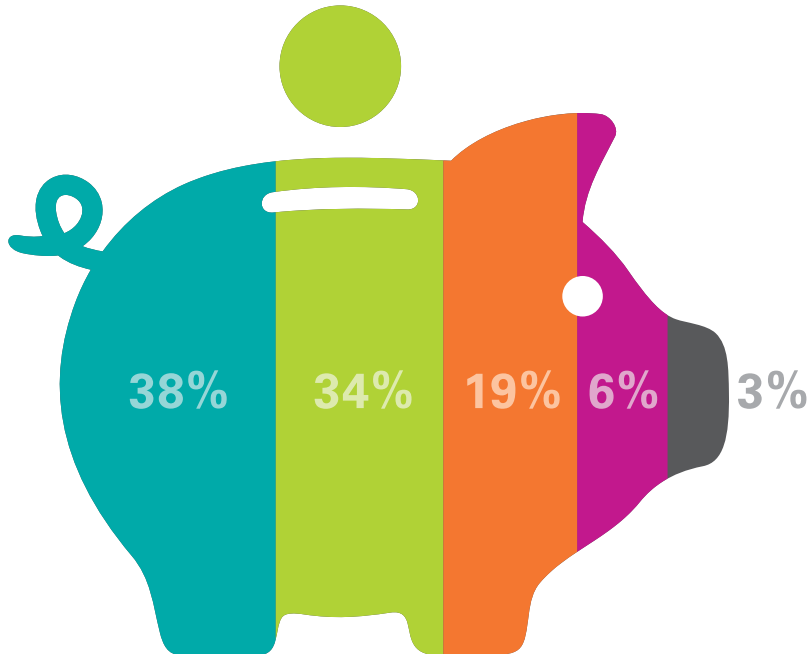
**SPOILER ALERT:**  
**This isn't your typical Annual Report!**

Prepare to be inspired.



Our mission is simple:

To promote volunteerism and  
service across the state.



## 2018 Funding Sources

**FEDERAL GRANTS TO COMMUNITIES: 38%**

\$4,190,614

**CASH MATCH: 34%**

\$3,849,854

**FEDERAL SEGAL EDUCATION AWARDS: 19%**

\$2,138,836

**FEDERAL SUPPORT FUNDS: 6%**

\$686,560

**STATE LOTTERY FUNDS: 3%**

\$357,084

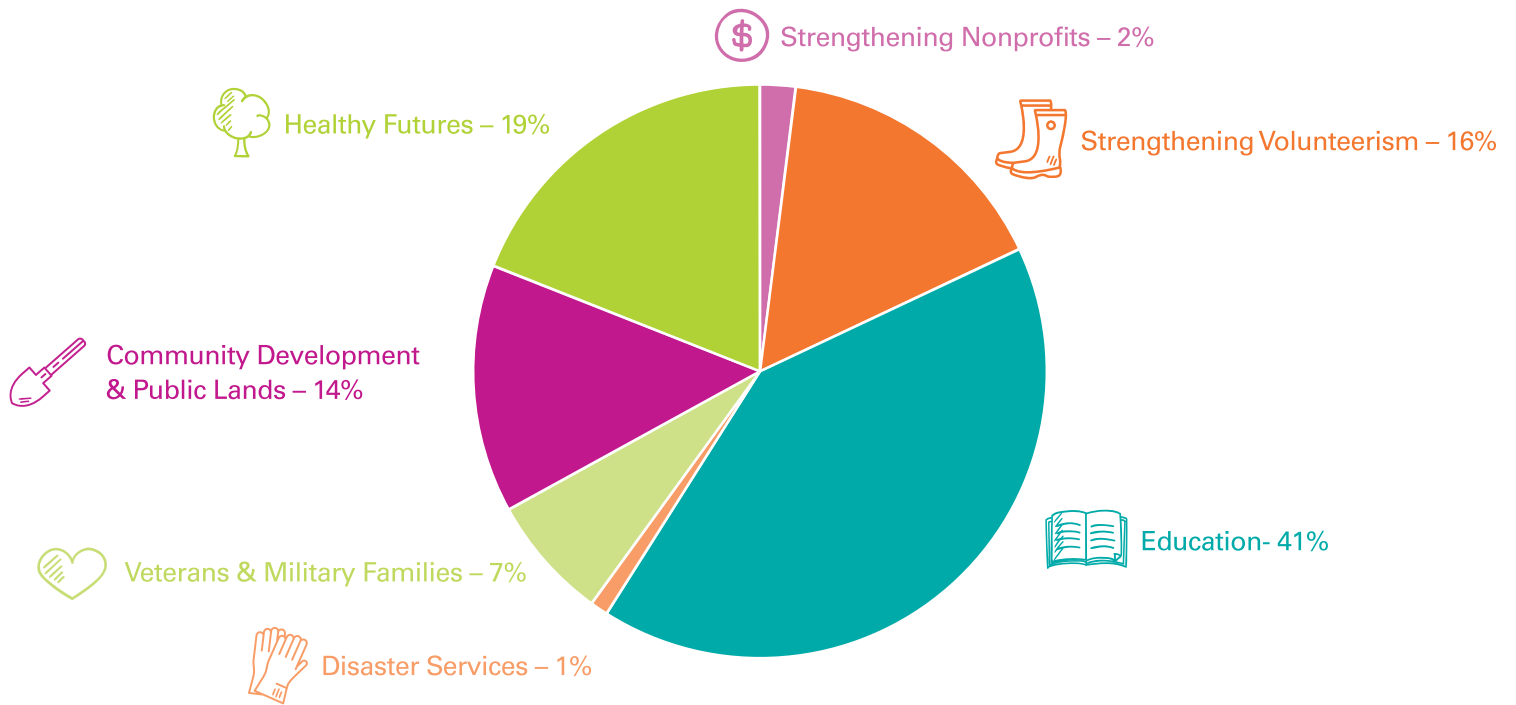
Total 2018 Funding:

\$11,222,948

WE BELIEVE IN GIVING TAXPAYERS  
THEIR MONEY'S WORTH.



# 2018 INVESTMENTS



## WHAT WE DO:

1. Make it easier for West Virginians to volunteer.
2. Provide funding and support to AmeriCorps programs.
3. Support and strengthen West Virginia's nonprofits.



# BE KIND.

In 2018, Volunteer West Virginia kicked-off A Year of Kindness in West Virginia.

It all started with an “Aha!” moment: In West Virginia, where fancy titles are optional, what if volunteering was as simple as being kind?

Armed with inspiration – Volunteer West Virginia created the Be Kind, #VolunteerWV campaign. The goal was simple:

- 1) Spread kindness.
- 2) Increase volunteerism in West Virginia.

## VOLUNTEER CENTERS

As part of the Be Kind campaign, Volunteer West Virginia granted over \$200,000 to start eight Volunteer Centers across the state. Funded projects varied from launching a VolunTourism pilot program in Tucker County, to supporting an online volunteer hub for Huntington and the surrounding counties.

Volunteer West Virginia received the funding from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), the same federal agency that funds AmeriCorps and oversees the nation’s service initiatives.



Last year more than 411,000 West Virginians volunteered.

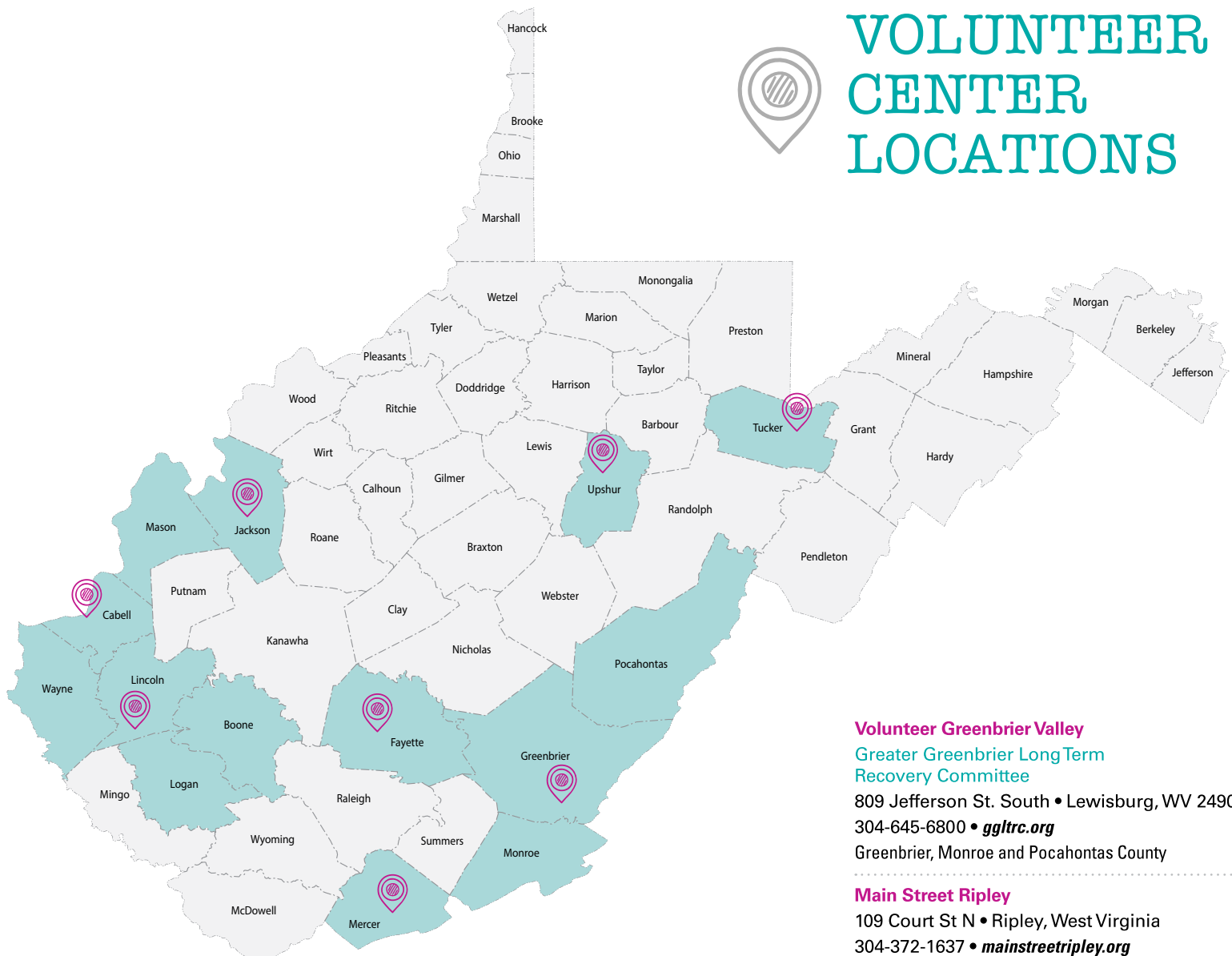
While 25% of West Virginians report they volunteer, 58% of residents “informally volunteer” – doing favors for neighbors and lending a helping hand.

*2018 CNCS Volunteering in America Report*





# VOLUNTEER CENTER LOCATIONS



## Big Ugly Tri-County Volunteer Center

Step by Step, Inc.

15 Rosewood Rd. • Harts, WV 25524

304-855-5402 • [stepbystepwv.org/volunteer](http://stepbystepwv.org/volunteer)

Boone, Lincoln and Logan County

## Buckhannon Volunteer Center

The City of Buckhannon

70 E. Main St. • Buckhannon, WV 26201

304-472-1651 ext. 1052

[buckhannonwv.org/volunteer](http://buckhannonwv.org/volunteer)

Buckhannon Area

## Mercer County Volunteer Center

Community Connections Inc.

215 South Walker St. • Princeton, WV 24740

304-913-4956 • [strongcommunities.org](http://strongcommunities.org)

Mercer County

## Fayette Connected

Fayette County Resource Network

100 Court St. • PO Box 307

Fayetteville, WV 25840

304-574-4338 • [fayetteconnected.org](http://fayetteconnected.org)

Fayette County

## Volunteer Greenbrier Valley

Greater Greenbrier Long Term  
Recovery Committee

809 Jefferson St. South • Lewisburg, WV 24901

304-645-6800 • [ggltrc.org](http://ggltrc.org)

Greenbrier, Monroe and Pocahontas County

## Main Street Ripley

109 Court St N • Ripley, West Virginia

304-372-1637 • [mainstreetripley.org](http://mainstreetripley.org)

Ripley Area

## Potomac Highlands Volunteer Center

Tucker County Community Foundation

737 William Ave, Suite 1 • Davis, WV 26260

304-259-5008 • [WVVolunteers.com](http://WVVolunteers.com)

Tucker County

## United We Volunteer

United Way of the River Cities

820 Madison Ave. • Huntington, WV 25704

304-523-8929 • [unitedwevolunteer.org](http://unitedwevolunteer.org)

Cabell, Lincoln, Mason and Wayne County



**BEKINDWV.COM**

Throughout the year of kindness, billboards and radio advertisements directed West Virginians to BeKindWV.com to find volunteer opportunities. The website connected visitors to volunteer opportunities in all 55 West Virginia counties.

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## THE IMPACT OF KINDNESS

Communities took the theme of kindness and ran with it, from students at Princeton Senior High School starting a Random Acts of Kindness Club, to over 100 volunteers participating in Buckhannon's CommUnity & Kindness Day of Service.

The Be Kind campaign reflected a greater conversation happening across the country. A reminder that volunteerism and kindness brings communities together, despite their differences, to create the future they deserve.

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## GET INVOLVED

- **If you have a minute:**

Spread a small act of kindness: Give a stranger a compliment; Pay for someone's morning coffee; Leave a kind note for someone to find.

- **If you have an hour:**

Visit BeKindWV.com to find a volunteer gig in your community.

- **If you have a year:**

Pay-it-forward as an AmeriCorps member in West Virginia.









# OUR 2018 IMPACT



WEST VIRGINIA RANKED  
**1st in the nation**  
for enrolling AmeriCorps members.



SUPPORTED  
PROGRAMMING  
**at 63**  
service sites in  
the southern  
coalfields.

AmeriCorps members earned  
**\$2.1 million**  
in Segal Education Scholarships.



**HELPED**  
**1,824**  
VETERANS AND MILITARY  
FAMILIES.



AMERICORPS  
members provided  
**159,655**  
HEALTHY MEALS.



**48,486 YOUTH**  
were served  
by all Volunteer  
**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**PROGRAMS.**



AMERICORPS MEMBERS  
**IMPROVED**  
**1,551 acres**  
**OF PUBLIC LAND.**



Recruited and managed  
**10,915 volunteers.**

GRANTED OVER  
**\$4 MILLION**  
to West Virginia  
organizations.



- > Coordinated 485 service events.
- > 697 AmeriCorps members served at 209 education sites.
- > Filled over 1,000 AmeriCorps positions.
- > Achieved 100% enrollment rate for AmeriCorps positions.





*Left: Former VISTA volunteer Naomi Cohen in Raleigh County, Robert Sharpe Productions, Before The Mountain Was Moved. Right: Senator J. Rockefeller during his VISTA service in Emmons, WV.*

*Photo Credit: Charleston Gazette-Mail*



## National Service in West Virginia

National Service programs like AmeriCorps have a long history in West Virginia, from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of the 1930's, to VISTAS fighting poverty in the 1960's, to the creation of AmeriCorps in 1993.

Each year more than 3,800 volunteers serve in National Service programs like AmeriCorps, VISTA, and Senior Corps in West Virginia. National Service programs support hundreds of nonprofits, schools, and service agencies in the state. They are the volunteers reading to children, teaching job skills, and the retirees giving back after a long career.











# AmeriCorps

In 2018, West Virginia ranked #1 in the nation for producing AmeriCorps volunteers. This means, more AmeriCorps members come from West Virginia than any other state!

Each year more than 1,000 individuals serve as AmeriCorps volunteers in West Virginia. Many volunteers serve in their hometowns, while others come from across the country to make West Virginia their home for the year.

Likened to the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps members serve throughout the state at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community organizations.



## BENEFITS



Monthly living stipend



Education Award for college or student loans



Health Insurance



Student loan forbearance



Career development



Knowing you made West Virginia a better place

## FOCUS AREAS



Healthy Futures



Education



Disaster Services



Strengthening Volunteerism



Veterans & Military Families



Community Development & Public Land







# 2018 AmeriCorps Programs



## AMERICORPS ON THE FRONTLINE

**Focus Area: Education | 40 AmeriCorps Members**

- AmeriCorps on the Frontline empowers students through mentoring. By providing consistent, ongoing mentoring for at-risk students, the program considerably increases school attendance, behavior, and course performance – improving the chances of successful high school graduation.
- This year, 748 students received 20 or more mentoring sessions from their AmeriCorps on the Frontline mentor.



## APPALACHIAN FOREST HERITAGE AREA (AFHA)

**Focus Areas: Community Development & Public Lands, Supporting Volunteerism | 41 AmeriCorps Members**

- In the scenic eastern mountains of West Virginia, AFHA AmeriCorps members improve ecosystems, provide outreach, and environmental education. Members provide hands-on historic preservation and improve heritage museums.
- This year, AFHA AmeriCorps members restored ecosystems on 1,272 acres and planted over 16,000 native trees.



## APPALACHIA HEALTHCORPS

**Focus Area: Healthy Futures  
5 AmeriCorps Members**

**NEW!**

- Appalachia HealthCorps AmeriCorps members change lives and health outcomes by teaching chronic disease self-management, weight loss, nutrition, and physical activity.



## ENERGY EXPRESS

**Focus Area: Education,  
Healthy Futures  
510 AmeriCorps Members**

- Energy Express AmeriCorps members promote reading skills for more than 3,000 children each summer. Children receive two nutritious meals each day, and with AmeriCorps members serving as mentors, they participate in reading, writing, recreation, and drama activities.
- This summer, Energy Express AmeriCorps members served at 82 school sites across the state.



## GROW OHIO VALLEY

**Focus Area: Healthy Futures  
17 AmeriCorps Members**

- Located in Wheeling, Grow Ohio Valley AmeriCorps members build a thriving community through local food. AmeriCorps members increase food security and serve the Ohio Valley through urban farming and community education.
- AmeriCorps members travel across the country to serve at Grow Ohio Valley. Many of the members move to West Virginia sight unseen!





## HIGH ROCKS

**Focus Areas: Education, Healthy Futures, Supporting Volunteerism**  
**42 AmeriCorps Members**

- High Rocks AmeriCorps members address youth empowerment, housing, local food, volunteerism, and more. Their mission is to educate, empower, and inspire young people to build a strong and sustainable West Virginia.
- This year, High Rocks AmeriCorps members served 1,478 students in Pocahontas, Greenbrier, and Nicholas counties.



## LIFE BRIDGE

**Focus Areas: Education, Veterans and Military Families**  
**60 AmeriCorps Members**

- LifeBridge AmeriCorps members, serving in 21 counties, give a hand up to families across the Mountain State through financial education, Veterans assistance, and high school credit recovery.
- In 2018, LifeBridge AmeriCorps members mentored 1,261 youth and assisted 547 Veterans.



## PRESERVE WV

**Focus Areas: Community Development & Public Lands, Supporting Volunteerism**  
**27 AmeriCorps Members**

- Serving statewide, Preserve WV AmeriCorps members help Main Streets thrive, preserve beloved West Virginia landmarks, and help communities capture their local history.
- Preserve WV AmeriCorps members lead volunteer workdays to save historic theaters, schools, churches, and more.







## STEP BY STEP STRENGTH CORPS

**NEW!**

**Focus Areas: Education  
20 AmeriCorps Members**

- Serving in Boone, Logan, Lincoln, Kanawha, and Roane counties, Step by Step Strength Corps helps at-risk students build resiliency to graduate from high school with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to successfully transition to a career, college, or technical school.



## TWIN BRANCH

**Community Development  
& Public Lands  
26 AmeriCorps Members**

- The Twin Branch AmeriCorps program improves the ecosystem and increases outdoor recreational opportunities in McDowell and Wyoming counties. A program of the Citizen Conservation Corps of West Virginia, AmeriCorps members build and maintain hiking trails and upgrade local parks to grow economic opportunity and tourism.
- Twin Branch provides job experience for young adults in the coalfields. AmeriCorps members receiving training in volunteer recruitment, trail building, stream health analysis, and more.



## WVU COLLABORATIVE DIRECT AMERICORPS

**NEW!**

**Focus Areas: Education | 50 AmeriCorps Members**

- AmeriCorps members serve as Peer First Year Transition Leaders or Innovative Service Champions for fellow college students to help support students and improve college retention.















# Volunteer West Virginia's AmeriCorps VISTA Programs



## **WEST VIRGINIA'S PROMISE, THE ALLIANCE FOR YOUTH**

**Focus Areas: Education | 26 Members, 85 Part-time Summer Members**

- West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTAs serve with community partners to ensure children receive the Five Promises:
  - 1) A caring adult
  - 2) Healthy childhoods
  - 3) Safe surroundings
  - 4) An effective education
  - 5) A opportunity to serve others
- In 2018, West Virginia's Promise AmeriCorps VISTAs served over 38,619 West Virginia youth.



## **WV STRONG**

**Focus Areas: Veterans and Military Families, Disaster  
9 Members**

WV Strong AmeriCorps VISTAs help military families get the support they need: housing services, employment, transportation, hospice care, non-criminal legal assistance, and military family services. Additionally, VISTAs serve with the disaster services program to help engage community volunteers in disaster recovery after the historic 2016 floods.

- This year, WV Strong VISTAs developed over \$73,000 in cash and in-kind resources for the organizations they serve.

Be The Change

A white outline map of the state of West Virginia is positioned at the bottom right of the teal sidebar.



# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



## GOVERNOR'S SERVICE AWARDS

The Governor's Service Awards, West Virginia's most prestigious volunteer award, honors individuals and organizations who make an impact through service in West Virginia.

This year's recipients helped to make their hometowns shine and cared for the state's beautiful parks and trails. They stepped up to help children, seniors, and cats. They boosted tourism in their communities, supported literacy efforts, addressed human trafficking, and much more.

### Meet the 2018 recipients!



Kiara Stevens  
Wellsburg | Youth



Melodee Price  
Elkins | Adult



Kandi Habeb  
Parkersburg | Adult



Jo Ann Harman  
Lahmansville | Senior



Kenneth Springer  
Hillsboro | Senior



The Ash Family  
Clarksburg | Family



Paula Osborne  
Berkeley Springs  
Lifetime Achievement



Tri-State Literacy Council  
Huntington | Organization



Faith In Action of the  
Greater Kanawha Valley  
Organization



Elkins Depot  
Welcome Center  
Organization



Rotary Clubs of  
Martinsburg &  
Shepherdstown  
Organization



Visit Volunteer West Virginia's YouTube Channel to see the stories of this year's recipients.





*"Volunteerism brings West Virginians together to spread kindness and uplift our communities. When we uplift others, we can see our true potential and rise to something much greater than ourselves."*

*- Governor Jim Justice*



## WEST VIRGINIA LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The 2018 West Virginia Leadership Awards recognized one individual and two organizations who displayed tremendous leadership in the Mountain State. Their actions have saved lives, rallied volunteers, and provided a safe haven for West Virginia's youth.



Chuck Clegg, Parkersburg  
**Disaster Volunteer  
Leadership Award**



Day To Serve  
**Servant Leadership  
Award**



**Save the Children**

Save The Children  
**Red Wagon Award**

## AMERICORPS TRANSFORMATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Hannah Hedrick, a natural leader, stepped up to help develop Grow Ohio Valley's Sprout Program, which makes fresh produce more accessible and appealing to youth.

Hannah's out-of-the-box thinking, upbeat personality, and commitment to Sprout helped her standout.



Hannah Hedrick,  
Grow Ohio Valley  
**2018 AmeriCorps  
Transformational  
Service Award**



# DISASTER SERVICES



## WEBSITE LAUNCH

This year Volunteer West Virginia made it easier for West Virginians to get prepared for disasters with the launch of the \*NEW\* Ready WV website.

The website teaches West Virginians how to:  
Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Volunteer.  
Visit [Ready.WV.gov](http://Ready.WV.gov) to learn more.

## READY WV DISASTER PREP CHECKLIST:

- ✓ Build an Emergency Kit – Create an emergency kit that you can grab and go.
- ✓ Be Informed – Know how to tune-in to local alerts and warnings. Follow local emergency authorities via an Emergency App, Social Media, TV, or Radio.
- ✓ Be Prepared for Power Outages – Keep on-hand working batteries, and alternative chargers for mobile devices and medical equipment.







## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program trains volunteers in basic disaster response skills, such as first aid, search and rescue, and disaster preparedness.

### IN 2018 CERT VOLUNTEERS:

- Invested 2,374 hours in the community.
- Hosted 73 preparedness events and service projects throughout the state reaching over 900 people.
- Responded to 6 disasters serving over 97 hours.

## WEST VIRGINIA CERT PROGRAMS

Beckley CERT  
Gilmer County CERT  
Greenbrier Valley CERT  
Hardy County CERT  
Jefferson County CERT  
Mason County CERT  
Mid-Ohio Valley Regional CERT  
Monongalia County CERT  
Monroe County CERT  
Pendleton County CERT  
Pleasants County CERT  
Raleigh County CERT  
Summers County CERT  
Tyler County CERT  
Upshur County CERT





## AMERICORPS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY

"The AmeriCorps members who pledged to "get things done" represent the best of America. These AmeriCorps members became a part of a legacy of service that demonstrates the great promise and ideals of our country. I am proud to welcome them to the AmeriCorps family and salute them for their service."

- Chester Spellman, Director of AmeriCorps

## Highlights

### WEST VIRGINIA'S FIRST WOMEN VETERANS CELEBRATION

In 2018, Donna Decker and Wayne McDonald, Veterans and WV Strong AmeriCorps VISTAs, successfully hosted the first ever Women Veterans Celebration in West Virginia.

Over 50 people attended the event at Chief Logan State Park – including 20 women Veterans. The event included: art therapy, massage therapy, a resource fair for women Veterans, and a memorial ceremony.







## DEVELOPING WEST VIRGINIA'S NONPROFITS

This year, Volunteer West Virginia continued to support the state's nonprofits. In 2018 we:

- Hosted Grant Writing Training for 80 participants.
- Cosponsored the West Virginia Nonprofit Leadership Summit for 207 attendees.
- Hosted focus groups to develop Volunteer Management Training.
- Convened partners at 5 Afterschool Listening Sessions.



## AMERICORPS: HELPING WEST VIRGINIA STUDENTS GRADUATE

Thanks to AmeriCorps, West Virginia now has a new solution to help students graduate.

LifeBridge AmeriCorps started the AmeriCorps assisted Credit Recovery Program in 2016 at Scott High School in Boone County. In its first year, with the help of two AmeriCorps members, 139 students recovered 173 credits, which allowed 36 students to graduate on time.

The program continued to shine the following year with 103 students recovering 173 credits, which resulted in 37 students graduating. Due to the overwhelming success, in 2018 the program expanded to Sherman High School, Clay County High School, and Point Pleasant High School.



# GRANTS

## AMERICORPS

**Appalachian Forest Heritage Area**

Multiple Sites

\$512,000.00

**Citizen Conservation Corps of WV**

Southern West Virginia

\$172,731.00

**Grow Ohio Valley**

Wheeling

\$143,541.00

**High Rocks Educational Corporation**

Pocahontas & Greenbrier County

\$426,076.00

**Preservation Alliance of West Virginia**

Multiple Sites

\$310,337.00

**The Education Alliance**

Multiple Sites

\$227,451.00

**United Way of Central West Virginia/LifeBridge**

Multiple Sites

\$751,225.00

**West Virginia University Research**

Corporation/Energy Express

Multiple Sites

\$1,250,996.00

**Washington Co. Health Department -**

**Appalachia HealthCorps**

Multiple Sites

\$74,660.00

**Step-By-Step - Strength Corps**

Multiple Sites

\$121,597.00

**WVU Center for Service Learning**

Morgantown

\$0.00

## DAY TO SERVE MINI-GRANT

**Catholic Charities West Virginia**

Smithville • \$250.00

Created local produce bags for needy families in Smithville.

**Hardy County Girl Scouts**

Moorefield • \$250.00

Planted flower beds and shrubbery at meeting space.

**WISH Center**

White Sulphur Springs • \$250.00

Cleaned and painted the WISH Center.

**Coalton Elementary PTA**

Coalton • \$246.61

Planted flower beds at Coalton Elementary.

**Try This WV**

Charleston • \$144.00

Trash clean-up on Charleston's East End.

**Doddridge County FRN**

West Union • \$250.00

Doddridge County Food Pantry "Birthday Bags."

**WV Horse Network**

Tornado • \$250.00

Read to a Rescue Horse event.

**United Way of Southern WV**

Beckley • \$105.08

Dancing with the Stars event.

**Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department**

Parkersburg • \$250.00

Parkersburg City Parks clean-up.

**WV School of Osteopathic Medicine**

Lewisburg • \$250.00

Story hour at the Greenbrier Public Library.

**Pollen8**

South Charleston • \$250.00

Breakfast for first-responders.

**-Ranson Gardens**

Ranson • \$150.00

Installation of a gravel path.

**Friends of Deckers**

Morgantown • \$200.00

Deckers Creek Trail clean-up.

**Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council**

Charleston • \$250.00

Scout Center beautification project.

## VOLUNTEER CENTER FUNDING - VOLUNTEER GENERATION FUND

**Fayette County Family Resource Network Inc.**

\$30,000.00

**Tucker Community Foundation**

\$26,419.50

**Big Ugly Tri-County Volunteer Center -**

**Step By Step, Inc.**

\$29,916.00

**Greater Greenbrier Long-Term**

**Recovery Commitee**

\$29,993.00

**City of Buckhannon**

\$23,885.00

**United Way of the River Cities**

\$21,211.00

**Community Connections Inc.**

\$17,937.00

**Main Street Ripley**

\$21,100.00



# 2018 COMMISSIONERS

**Michael Hooper**, *Chairman*

Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP • Wheeling

**Monica DellaMea**

WV Department of Education • Charleston

**Angelo Beblo**

Spillman Thomas and Battle • Charleston

**Mercedes Jones Castle** • Scott Depot

**Dwight Coburn**

Southwestern Community Action  
Council, Inc • Huntington

**Emily Fisher**

Growing Wings Consulting • Triadelphia

**Jimmy Gianato**

West Virginia Division of Homeland Security  
and Emergency Management • Charleston

**Kim Good**

United Way of Central West Virginia-  
Foster Grandparent Program • Charleston

**Sammy Gray** • First Energy • Charleston

**Blake Humphrey** • WVU Student • Morgantown

**Julia Keehner** • Buckhannon

**Philip Keith**

Appalachian Council Head Start • Buckhannon

**Mark Mangano**

Northern Hancock Bank and Trust Company • Chester

**Erica Mani** • American Red Cross • Charleston

**Larry McCallister**

Wood County Commissioner (retired) • Washington

**Linda Miller**

Communication Workers of America • Charleston

**Susie Nelson**

Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley • Wheeling

**Margaret Ann O'Neal**

United Way of Central WV • Charleston

**John Reisenweber**

The Civil-Military Innovation Institute Inc. • Martinsburg

**Daniel Richey** • State Farm • Richwood

**Janet Somerville**

FGP Mid-Ohio Valley Regional Council • Elizabeth

**Michelle Teare**

Corporation for National and Community Service • Charleston

**Ann Worley** • Beckley City Council • Beckley

# 2018 STAFF

**Heather Foster** | *Executive Director*

**Krista Bradshaw** | *AmeriCorps Program Manager*

**Heather Brunton** | *Financial Manager*

**Waylon Bryant** | *AmeriCorps Program Assistant*

**Dana Bryant** | *Communications Coordinator*

**Moya Doneghy** | *Program and Training Assistant*

**Pam Dugan** | *Statewide Director, West Virginia's Promise*

**Gina Namay** | *Disaster Services Coordinator*

**Hannah Stone** | *AmeriCorps Program Officer*

**Lisa Tignor** | *Volunteer Program Coordinator*

**Pamela Watts** | *Office Manager*



## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Volunteer West Virginia, the state's Commission for National and Community Service, challenges West Virginians to strengthen their communities through service and volunteerism. We identify and mobilize resources, promote an ethic of service, and empower communities to solve problems and improve the quality of life for individuals and families.







West Virginia's next generation of volunteers, Stella Bailey from Princeton.



600 Capitol Street | Charleston, WV 25301  
304.558.0111 | **[volunteerwv.org](http://volunteerwv.org)**

